



UN Nutrition statement, agenda item 17

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165 words

Excellencies,

The rising levels of all forms of malnutrition in the world including undernutrition and obesity are burdening already stretched health systems and demonstrate that food systems are failing.

Good nutrition starts with the critical 1000-day period from conception. Optimal breastfeeding practices help prevent child undernutrition, growth/cognitive deficits, and overweight and obesity at later stages, lowering the risk for the onset of NCDs. Exclusive breastfeeding should be the norm but is still low in many countries and undermined by harmful marketing .

Harmful marketing, including on digital platforms are also threatening food environments, the physical, economic, policy and sociocultural surroundings that influence people's food choices leading to the consumption of unhealthy diets, a major risk factor for disease.

UN agencies, including WHO have a key role to play in food systems transformation and improvement of food environments. Developing regulations and guidelines are needed as part of this task.

UN Nutrition brings the collective knowledge and expertise of UN agencies to support this work.

Thank you.